

## **II. Response to Office Action**

### **A. Regarding the Amendments**

Claims 1-45 are pending in the application. Claims 1-16 and 35-45 have been withdrawn.

### **B. Response to Restriction Requirement**

The Examiner has required that the claims be Restricted to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-14,

Group II: Claims 15 and 16,

Group III: Claims 17-34,

Group IV: Claims 35 and 36,

Group V: Claim 37, and

Group VI: Claims 38-45.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to pursue claims 17-34, i.e., the Group III claims. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw claims 1-16 and 35-45 from examination. Though Applicants have elected, without traverse, to pursue the Group III claims in the present application, Applicants do not concede that the Restriction among the non-elected groups are necessarily proper. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims in divisional or continuation applications and Applicants reserve the right to traverse Restriction among the non-elected groups of claims in such divisional or continuation applications.

### **C. Response to Election of Species Requirement**

1. **Species of inhibitors.** The Examiner has required that a species of inhibitor be elected from among 3-bromopyruvate, 3-nitropropionate, and an unspecified type of inhibitor.

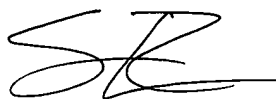
Applicants hereby elect 3-nitropropionate. All of the elected claims read on the elected species and are generic with regard to the elected species.

**2. Species of candidate compound.** The Examiner has required that a species of candidate compound be elected from among the candidate compounds of claims 21-23, i.e., database compounds, compounds selected de novo design, and compounds selected by design starting from a known inhibitor. Applicants elect compounds selected by design starting from a known inhibitor. Of the pending claims, claims 17-20 and 23-34 read on the elected species. Claims 17-20 and 24-34 are generic with regard to the elected species.

**3. Species of inhibitor.** The Examiner has requires that a species of inhibitor be elected from among the inhibitors cited in claims 30 and 31, i.e., from among competitive and non-competitive inhibitors. Applicants elect competitive inhibitors. Of the pending claims, claims 17-30 and 32-34 read on the elected species and claims 17-29 and 32-34 are generic with regard to the elected species.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent agent at 713-787-1558 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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